

DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Hearing Date: July 11, 2003

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Duties and settings of unlicensed Dental Assistants.

Section (s) Affected: 1085

Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:

The specific purpose of the proposed regulations is to make editorial changes for clarity and allow unlicensed dental assistants to operate intra-oral photography or other imaging equipment.

Factual Basis:

The proposed changes recognize that the two duties do not require the supervising dentist to check and approve the procedure prior to dismissal of the patient, unlike other allowable duties.

The proposed changes would also allow a Registered Dental Hygienist in Extended Functions (RDHEF) or an RDHAP, in addition to current regulatory language allowing a dentist or an RDH, to scale and polish prior to the dental assistant's application of topical fluoride, since RDHEFs and RDHAPs are obviously as qualified to do so as an RDH since they have completed more training than an RDH.

The proposed changes also clarify the duties and settings which unlicensed dental assistants can perform as an employee of an RDHAP pursuant to Business and Professions Code, Section 1751.

Underlying Data

Review of the Regulatory Structure and Scope of Practice for California's Dental Auxiliaries, Sjoberg & Evashenk Consulting, LLC, September 1, 2002, p. 14.

Supplemental Sunset Review Report on Auxiliary Scopes of Practice, Committee on Dental Auxiliaries, October 5, 2002, p. 4.

Business Impact:

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses.

Specific Technologies or Equipment

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

Consideration of Alternatives

No reasonable alternative which was considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Dental Board of California would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.